



JF★BB

JÜDISCHES FILMFESTIVAL
BERLIN | BRANDENBURG

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Feature Film Competition | Documentary Film Competition

Press release

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Under the motto JEWICY MOVIES, the Jewish Film Festival Berlin Brandenburg will show 43 films and 2 series in Potsdam and Berlin this year. The selection shows the range of Jewish experience in the past, present and future, from romantic comedy to concept film, from historical drama to mockumentary. A programmatic journey between threat and joie de vivre, personal stories and big politics, sensuality and discourse - and always true to life.

At the heart of the festival are the two competitions for the best feature film and documentary. **Eight films are represented in the feature film competition this year.**

In EVOLUTION (Kornél Mundruczó, HU/DE 2021, 97 min), the intergenerational effects and traumas of the Shoah are revealed in surreal images.... The new film by the cult Hungarian director is based on his play of the same name. *Arkadij Khaet (Program Collective): "It is rare to see such an artistic triptych. In three different brushstrokes, through three generations, in just three shots, this film paints a picture of*

how the past influences the present."

BERENSHTEIN (Roman Shumunov, IL 2021, 105 min) will celebrate its German premiere at JFBB 2022. A cinematically complex portrait of Ukrainian Soviet partisan and spy Leonid Berenshtein. The last living ex-commander of a partisan unit recalls the unfathomable horrors of the war, which even he could not prevent, and the eventual victory. Unusual blend of reenactment and eyewitness interview.

CINEMA SABAYA (Orit Fouks Rotem, IL/BE 2021, 95 min) shows in the style of a documentary workshop video diary the difficult rapprochement between Jewish and Arab women in Israel. Heavy topics, told with joie de vivre and great respect, are staged - from dependence or independence from men to essential questions of social participation: why is it that even in such dialogue workshops only Hebrew is ever spoken?

CONCERNED CITIZEN (Idan Haguel, IL 2022, 82 min) centers on a gay couple who move into a beautiful apartment in the wrong place at the wrong time. An everyday reflection around liberal life lies, immanent racism, complicity and responsibility, civil courage and liberal life lies. *Amos Geva (Program Collective): "Making the comfort zone uncomfortable for the modern liberal viewer. Gay rights, women's rights, gentrification, xenophobia and privilege. This film makes you reevaluate, through the real-life dilemmas shown, what you think you know about these headlines."*

DER PASSFÄLSCHER (Maggie Peren, DE/LUX 2022, 116 min) tells with a light hand about the heavy subject of not letting one's youth be stolen even in the repressive Nazi system - here the hunger for youth, love and new experiences, there the constant fear of persecution and death.

WE MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD (Natalia Sinelnikova, DE 2022, 93 min) . This psychologically sophisticated concept film about the fear of not belonging to a closed society opened this year's Berlinale section Perspektive deutsches Kino. *"Why is it so hard to arrive in this society? And why is it so hard for us to let others join us in our society? An apt interjection about transparency and exclusion, apparently two sides of the same coin."* (Bernd Buder)

The mockumentary THE RED STAR (Gabriel Matias Lichtmann, AR 2021, 72 min)

sketches a biography about one of the greatest mysteries of Argentine Jewish history: Laila Salama. She spied for MI6 and was apparently involved in the kidnapping of Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires in 1960. A biography sketches that could have existed like this.

ROSE (Aurélie Saada, FR 2021, 103 min) is the loose, light, sensual French comedy of this year's JFBB. It is about the question of whether a Jewish widow, who is at an advanced age, is allowed to enjoy life once again. *Dr. Lea Wohl von Haselberg (Program Collective): "An older woman as a protagonist. Super! It's about desire and sexuality in old age and the social conflict that comes with it."*

In the documentary competition, ADAM & IDA by Berlin-based director Jan Tenhaven (DE 2022, 83 min) will celebrate its world premiere at this year's JFBB. This film tells the story of the apparent twins Adam and Ida Paluch, who were separated as toddlers in the ghetto, survived the Holocaust and miraculously found each other again 53 years later.

WE WEPT WITHOUT TEARS (Gideon Greif/ Itai Lev, IL 2022, 72 min) has its German premiere at JFBB 2022. This cinematic remembrance of the Shoah processes the most important eyewitness testimonies of those who had to remove the victims of the Shoah under duress in the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp.

1341 FRAMES OF LOVE AND WAR (Ran Tal, IL 2022, 90 min) is a photo chronicle in moving images: As a photographer, Micha Bar-Am documents important events and wars of Israel, from the Eichmann trial in 1961 to the Lebanon war in 1982. Micha Bar-Am, reflects on stories and experiences behind the photos - and his role as one of Israel's most important chroniclers.

In HOUSEWITZ (Oeke Hoogendijk, NL 2021, 71 min), filmmaker Oeke Hoogendijk tries to make sense of her mother's story. Only gradually do we understand that the oddball elderly lady, here watching TV in her living room with her cat, never leaves that living room. A portrait of a wise woman who spends every day with the Holocaust as her roommate.

BABI YAR CONTEXT (Sergei Loznitsa, NL 2021, 121 min): The Babyn Yar massacre,

in which German Nazi Einsatzgruppen and local police units shot more than 33,000 Jews, is one of the most horrific crimes of the past century. Sergej Losnitza's associative montage of archival materials precisely taps into a blank space in European history.

With the Blue Box, a small metal piggy bank, the Jewish National Fund collected money to buy land from Arabs in Palestine during the founding phase of the State of Israel. In the eponymous film BLUE BOX (Michal Weits, IL/CA/BE 2021, 80 min), the filmmaker reflects on the complex story of her great-grandfather Yosef Weitz - a "founding father" who created wonderful green forests out of the barren soil of Israel, but acquired the land for it sometimes with morally questionable methods.

In her latest film A WOMAN (Jeanine Meerapfel, DE/AR 2021, 104 min) Jeanine Meerapfel, to whom this year's JFBB Homage is dedicated, deals with the biography of her mother. In an intimate way, she remembers a woman for whom the feeling of homelessness was a permanent condition. At the same time, it is the story of the exile experiences of an entire generation in the 20th century.

LEAVING PARADISE (Ofer Freiman, IL 2020, 86 min) shows that Jewish life also takes place in the Brazilian jungle: 60-year-old Cleo manages a farm in rural Brazil with his extended family. The clan lives like a commune and practices a very individual Judaism. When the children want to live out their Jewishness and move to Israel, Cleo sees his life's work in danger. So which is the Promised Land?

RAYMONDE EL BIDAOUIA (Yaël Abecassis, IL 2020, 77 min), tells the story of popular singer Raymonde El Bidaouia. The Sephardic Jew immigrated from Casablanca to Israel at the age of 18 and overcame many strokes of fate. This documentary by her daughter Yaël Abecassis, who accompanies her mother to the places of her youth, shows how music helped her. *Amos Geva (Program Collective): "While 1700 years of Jewish life are celebrated in Germany, Jewish life in North Africa goes back to the Bible. The film provides a glimpse into the culture of Moroccan Jewry through the music of El Bidaouia, observed by her daughter, Israeli actress and director Yaël Abecassis."*

SUMMER NIGHTS (Ohad Milstein, IL 2021, 53 min), shows the world through the

eyes of a 6-year-old child. A sensitively staged portrait of a father-son relationship and a deeply touching approach to the big question of what it actually means to be human. *Amos Geva (Program Collective): "what can be passed on from generation to generation? What remains embedded in us when that generation is gone?"*

The Gershon Klein Prizes, donated by the Klein family in memory of the Berlin cinema legend Gershon Klein, will be awarded in both competitions. Endowed with 3,000 euros each.

The jury of the respective competition can be found [here](#).

The other sections of JFBB 2022: a colorful variety of genres, the special cinema of JFBB, can be found in Kino fermished. Selected short films are shown in Nosh Nosh, Serial Fresh is the series section.

More information on the programme will follow, and you can keep up to date by clicking on our [website](#).

If you have any press enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact our [press department](#).

Look forward with us to an exciting Jewish Film Festival 2022!

In the [press area of jfbb.info](#) you can download the JFBB logo and motif of the JFBB 2022.

The 28th Jewish Film Festival Berlin | Brandenburg (JFBB) will take place from 14 to 19 June 2022. The JFBB is supported by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH, the state capital Potsdam and the Capital Cultural Fund. Media partners are radio eins, rbb Kultur, Indiekino and 3sat.